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UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, February 3, 2025

No Commercials

From time to time, individuals have posted commercial messages using the comment option on this blog.

When yours truly notices such comments, he removes them.

Please do not post commercial comments. It's a waste of my time and yours.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Watch the Jan. 22, 2025 morning meeting of the Regents

The meeting at UC-San Francisco began with public comments. Many were phoned in and the audio quality was often poor to inaudible. Since that problem problem appeared on many calls, it is likely that the technical fault was on the Regents side. Nonetheless, it is advisable for callers either to use landlines when they phone in or to make sure their cellphones have a strong signal.

A number of the comments were in some form anti-Israel regarding the Gaza war. Others involved staff pay, union issues, basic needs of students, antisemitism, undocumented students, response to the LA-area fires, contracting out, textbook costs, campus safety plans, and tuition. A disturbance occurred, temporarily shutting down the meeting.

Regent Chair Reilly spoke positively about UCLA's fire response. Another disturbance occurred and the room was cleared. Afterwards, UC president Drake also spoke positively about UCLA's fire response and noted that the outgoing Biden administration had renewed UC's management contracts for Berkeley National Lab and Lawrence Livermore, with five-year extensions. He also touched on the state budget process, noting we are at athe beginning of that process (not the end). Finally, he alluded to difficulties potentially facing undocumented students.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Concern Regarding the APC's Common Systemwide Calendar Work
- Common Calendar Action Committee: Summary Report On Survey Comments
- Common Calendar Survey Results
- Common Systemwide Calendar Workgroup
- UCSA's Letter Asking UC to Expand Commitment to Vulnerable Populations

Remaking the University

- ON MINIGRANTS AND SHARED GOVERNANCE (Guest Post) - 2/25/2025
- Liner Note 17. Fighting the Knowledge Bonfire is Working: Expertise is Central to the Movement - 2/22/2025
- Liner Note 16: Trumpian Fear of Knowledge - 2/14/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
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Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors

Faculty rep Cheung had laryngitis so his statement was read by the Senate's vice chair. He noted the time-place-manner rules that had been created in the fall on the various campuses. Much of his remarks were devoted to defending faculty disciplinary procedures which were to be taken up later in the day as item A5.* He emphasized due process and innocent until proven guilty standards and warned convictions would be overturned by litigation of these standards were not followed.

Incoming UCLA chancellor Julio Frenk was introduced and made brief remarks, particularly with regard to the campus fire response and the temporary lending of University Park (former Westside Pavillion) for local emergency services.

There followed a presentation on the state "College Corps" program of which UC is a part, a kind of state Peace Corps which young people can volunteer for and receive assistance in attending college.

Nathan Brostrom reviewed UC's sustainability program. Capital projects - including some for UCLA - were approved. There was a review of the governor's January budget proposal and the so-called "compact" for UC funding. Although no one quite said the contract had been breached, the proposal defers some funding due to UC for 2025-26 to the future. To yours truly, that is a breach. The legislature - not part of the compact - allocated funds annually. What a future legislature will do cannot be set by an enforceable contract. Of course, the state could say UC did not meet all of its goals, notably the ratio of transfer students to others. But at least some of the problem is pandemic-induced reductions in community college students.

Finally, a brief presentation on the National Labs indicated they had high ratings in various categories.

As always, we preserve Regents' recordings because the Regents have no policy with regard to duration of retention. Most of the morning's proceedings can be seen at:

https://archive.org/download/regents-board-finance-and-capital-strategies-committee-joint-meeting-academic-an/Regents%20Board%2C%20Finance%20and%20Capital%20Strategies%20Committee%2C%20Joint%20Meeting_%20Academic%20and%20Finance%2C%20National%20Labs%201-22-2025.mp4.

The National Labs presentation is at the beginning of:

https://archive.org/download/regents-board-finance-and-capital-strategies-committee-joint-meeting-academic-an/Regents%20National%20Labs%2C%20Academic%20and%20Student%20Affairs%20Committee%2C%20Governance%20Committee%201-22-2025.mp4.

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*We have previously covered the discussion of A5:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/01/no-numbers.html;
https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/01/no-numbers-part-2.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC Regents

♫Take Us Out of the Ball Game♫ - Part 9 (indirect effect)

As blog readers will know, UCLA had a lease agreement for a baseball field on the nearby VA property which a judge voided.* There have been appeals, stays, etc. Meanwhile, the Brentwood School, which also had a lease and significant athletic facilities on the VA property seemed to have a deal worked out, but has nevertheless appealed the judge's decision, essentially saying the initial decision was an incorrect interpretation of the law.

Were that appeal to succeed, it would have an indirect effect on UCLA even if UCLA is not a party to the Brentwood litigation since it would undermine the initial ruling.

From the LA Times: *...[The Brentwood School's] Jan. 17 brief to the appeals court made no mention of the agreement [that the Brentwood School had previously made] and instead argued that the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, the law on which Carter's ruling rested, only required lease holders to provide services that principally benefit veterans and their families, not that the lease in its entirety had to meet that standard...*

- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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Pell-Mell
Why?
Lost Funding - Part 2
San Diego Freeze

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-01-30/brentwood-school-asks-appeals-court-to-toss-out-a-judges-ruling-voiding-its-lease-of-veteran-land.

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*Our most recent posting on this matter is at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/12/take-us-out-of-ball-game-part-8.html.

Los Angeles Times
Judge calls for more housing on VA's West L.A. campus

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Saturday, February 1, 2025

Freezing-Unfreezing - Part 2

From an email by Jason Sisney of the Legislative Analyst's Office:

...[On] January 31, 2025, a coalition of states, including California (represented by Attorney General Rob Bonta), secured a temporary restraining order (TRO) that President Trump, OMB, and other federal defendants "during the pendency of the TRO…shall not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate Defendants' compliance with awards and obligations to provide federal financial assistance to the States, and Defendants shall not impede the States' access to such awards and obligations, except on the basis of the applicable authorizing statutes, regulations, and terms." Federal defendants also are barred "from reissuing, adopting, implementing, or otherwise giving effort to the OMB Directive under any other name or title or through any other Defendants (or agency supervised, administered, or controlled by any Defendant), such as the continued implementation identified by the White House Press Secretary's statement of January 29, 2025." The TRO was filed in Rhode Island's U.S. District Court.*

The Rhode Island judge noted in the order that "the pause in federal funding will also hurt current disaster relief efforts," citing support for disaster recovery in both North Carolina and California. The judge noted threats to drug trafficking enforcement, highway planning and construction, childcare, veteran nursing care funding, special education grants, and state health departments. In total, the order says, "the States have set forth facts showing that the Executive's abrupt 'pause' in potentially trillions of dollars of federal funding will cause a ripple effect that would directly impact the States and other's ability to provide and administer vital services and relief to their citizens."

Previously, on January 28, a District of Columbia U.S. District Court judge issued an administrative stay, preventing implementation of the OMB directive "with respect to the disbursement of Federal funds under all open awards" until 5 p.m. on February 3. Despite the prior court orders, some entities still report freezes of federal funds being implemented, perhaps via means other than the initial OMB directive...

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*As blog readers will likely know, the press secretary said that the order would only block the OMB directive, but not the freeze, whatever that was supposed to mean.

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Is this really the hill UC wants to die on?
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The 15% Cap - Part 3
The 15% Cap - Part 2
Demolition - Part 3
Slasher
Demolition - Part 2
UCLA Anderson Forecast on Cost of Fires

The degree to which this back and forth on the freeze has affected the flow of funds to UC of federal grants, or consideration of grant applications by federal agencies, is not clear.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 6:40 AM No comments:

Labels: LAO, politics

What the Regents Likely Missed

The Regents usually discuss matters that could lead to litigation behind closed doors. But at their meetings of Jan. 22-23, they likely missed the flurry of presidential executive orders that followed Inauguration Day. Of course, we can't be sure of what went on behind closed doors. Nonetheless, there were a number of orders that could affect UC. From the Washington Post:

...The orders go far beyond the federal government. Trump also directed agencies to draw up lists of public companies to investigate over their DEI policies — a move that legal experts said could send chills through the private sector. The Justice and Education departments also were required to issue guidance to educational agencies and universities on ways to comply with the Supreme Court's landmark decision banning race-conscious admissions...

*The executive orders stand to reach deep into the private and government-contracting sectors, said Jason Schwartz, a partner at Gibson Dunn and co-chair of the law firm's labor and employment group. The attorney general and agency heads have been tasked with identifying as many as "nine potential civil compliance investigations" of publicly traded corporations; large nonprofits or associations; foundations with assets of $500 million or more; state bar associations; medical associations; or universities with endowments over $1 billion.**

...He also highlighted new prohibitions on federal contractors and grant recipients from participating in many affirmative action or DEI measures. Violations are subject to the False Claims Act, which can bring heavy financial penalties — while lawsuits could be filed either by the government or private actors. "They are handing out sheriff's badges to private citizens to sue about government contractor DEI programs," Schwartz said...

Full story at https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2025/01/23/trump-dei-affirmative-action/.

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*We noted the endowment matter - which covers UC and UCLA - in a prior post:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/01/just-so-you-know.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, endowment, endowments, UC Regents

Two Announcements

In light of the devastating fires affecting Los Angeles and the Bruin community, we are extending the submission deadline for UCLA's 2024-2025 Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award and the Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award. The new deadline is Monday, February 24, 2024.

As a reminder, an explanation of nominating procedures for both awards is provided below.

The Dickson Emeritus Professorship Award

The Dickson Award was created by a gift endowment from the late Edward A. Dickson, a Regent of the University of California from 1913 to 1946. The award honors outstanding

The 15% Cap
Another Lawsuit - and another
A bit of history
Lawsuit
And now a word from yours truly...
Protecting the House
Smile
It's hard to keep up
Either it's a hack/scam or an abuse of the UCLA em...
Demolition
More Scams
More on Community College DEI Statements
Trailer Bills
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Unclear
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► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

research, scholarly work, teaching and/or educational service (e.g. service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts or committees) performed by an emeritus/emerita professor since retirement. Each of the UC campuses has received funds that will support one or more awards each year.

The Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award

The Goldberg Award was created in 2014 to recognize extraordinary service by an emeritus/emerita professor to the academic enterprise after retirement. The award honors outstanding service in professional, University, Academic Senate, emeriti, departmental or editorial posts or committees performed at UCLA by an emeritus/emerita professor since retirement.

Nominating Procedures for Both Awards

Departments are limited to one nomination each year for each award. Department chairs or their designees are asked to submit nominations. Individuals also may nominate colleagues for these awards, but must coordinate with the department chair to submit nominations.

For both awards, nominations must include a cover letter, a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae and two supporting letters from leaders in the field commenting specifically on the nominee's achievements since retirement.

- Dickson Award — nominators should concentrate on and highlight the nominee's distinctive research, scholarly work and/or educational service since retirement.
- Goldberg Award — nominators should concentrate on and highlight the nominee's distinguished service to UCLA since retirement.

NEW DEADLINE: Nominations are due by Monday, February 24, 2025. Please submit your nominations online via the Emeriti Awards Nomination Portal.

The awardee(s) will be announced on or before Monday, April 21, 2025. The awards, consisting of cash prizes and certificates, will be presented in the spring by the UCLA Emeriti Association.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or the nomination procedure, please contact Emeriti Association President, Professor Emeritus Fernando Torres-Gil, Torres@luskin.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Levine

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Personnel

Chair, UCLA Emeriti Association Award Selection Committee

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: retirement, UCLA

Friday, January 31, 2025

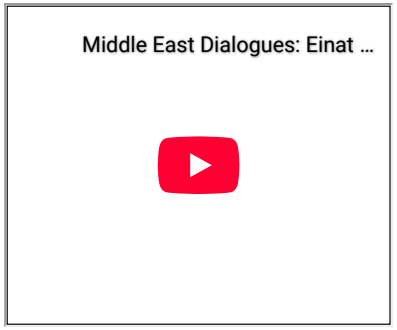
The Notable Absence of Dialogue Across Differences

When the Israel-Gaza War began roiling certain college campuses, Dartmouth was an early pioneer in creating dialogues led by faculty members with different perspectives on the conflict.* UCLA produced a brief episode early on just for the medical school, but its program was very limited in terms of who had access and quickly disappeared. Yours truly preserved an audio version, however.**

Subsequently, UC President Drake provided $7 million to the various UC campuses for such programming. UCLA ostensibly has created a "Dialogue Across Differences." I say "ostensibly" because there is little actual programming to show for the effort, although the existence of the

Dialogue is periodically touted.*** No one seems to ask what became of Drake's funding including the Regents' Compliance and Audit Committee which is supposed to look at how money is spent.

What brings all of this to mind is that Harvard recently released a dialogue of the type UCLA is supposed to be having. You can see it at the link below:



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdmDEXatXts or

https://ia801406.us.archive.org/35/items/a-laugh-a-tear-a-mitzvah/Harvard%20Einat%20Wilf%20in%20conversation%20with%20Prof%20Tarek%20Masoud%201-24-2025.mp4.

The obvious question is why UCLA can't do what Harvard does? Is it really that hard, particularly in the modern era where interviews and discussions can be imported from anywhere via Zoom or other platforms? Who got the Drake money? Why don't we have (and why haven't we seen) tangible results? Which individual is supposed to be in charge and accountable? Is new leadership of the Dialogue required.

Perhaps our new chancellor would like to explore this matter. ???

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2023/12/dartmouths-example-in-dealing-with_02027536794.html.

**https://archive.org/details/ucla-med-school-dialogue-12-20-2023.

***The Dialogue website lists a lot of *non*-Middle East possible efforts, although it is not clear what results these efforts have produced:

https://evcp.ucla.edu/priorities/dialogue-across-difference/.

The only program listed dealing with the Middle East situation occurred in February 2024, *eleven months ago*:

https://vimeo.com/918557576/e75dd48558.

The Dialogue website currently lists *no* upcoming events:

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: Dartmouth, Harvard, UCLA

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